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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Currently amended): A filter housing assembly for housing a filter member therewithin comprising:

~~A filter housing assembly for housing a filter member therewithin comprising:~~

a one-piece substantially frusto-conical shaped housing member having an open end portion and a substantially closed dome shaped portion, said housing member having a substantially hollow interior accessible from said open end portion and adaptable for receiving a substantial portion of a filter member when positioned therewithin, said substantially closed dome shaped portion having at least one opening extending therethrough for allowing air to enter said housing member, said at least one opening being contained within the outer periphery of said substantially closed dome shaped portion;

a first end cap member adaptable for engaging one end portion of a filter member and being receivable within the interior of said housing member; and

a second end cap member adaptable for engaging the opposite end portion of a filter member and being engageable with the opened end portion of said housing member, said second end cap member having an opening associated therewith for allowing air to exit said housing member.

Claim 13 (Original): The filter housing assembly as defined in claim 12 wherein said first and second end cap members and said housing member form a peripheral space around a filter

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element when said first end cap member and a filter member are positioned within said housing member and when said second end cap member is engaged with the open end portion of said housing member.

Claim 14 (Original): The filter housing assembly as defined in claim 12 wherein said at least one opening extending through the closed dome shaped portion of said housing member is located near the apex thereof.

Claim 15 (Original): The filter housing assembly as defined in claim 12 wherein said at least one opening extending through the closed dome shaped portion of said housing member is offset from the apex thereof.

Claim 16 (Original): The filter housing assembly as defined in claim 12 wherein the size of said at least one opening extending through the closed dome shaped portion of said housing member is substantially equal to the size of the opening associated with said second end cap member.

Claim 17 (Original): The filter housing assembly as defined in claim 12 wherein the size of said at least one opening extending through the closed dome shaped portion of said housing member is less than the size of the opening associated with said second end cap member.

Claim 18 (Original): The filter housing assembly as defined in claim 12 wherein the size of said at least one opening extending through the closed dome shaped portion of said housing member is greater than the size of the opening associated with said second end cap member.

Claim 19 (Original): The filter housing assembly as defined in claim 12 wherein said housing member includes a plurality of circumferentially spaced projections associated with the interior thereof, said spaced projections being positioned and located to facilitate centering of a filter

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member within said housing member when a filter member is positioned therewithin.

Claim 20 (Original): The filter housing assembly as defined in claim 19 wherein said first end cap member engages said plurality of spaced projections when positioned within said housing member.

Claim 21 (Currently amended): The filter housing assembly as defined in claim 12 wherein the closed dome shaped portion of said housing member includes a plurality of openings extending therethrough for allowing air to enter said housing member, each of said plurality of openings being contained within the outer periphery of said domed shaped portion.

Claim 22 (Currently amended): A filter housing assembly for housing a filter member therewithin for use in an oxygen concentrator comprising:

a substantially frusto-conical shaped housing member having an open end portion associated with one end portion thereof and a dome shaped portion associated with the opposite end portion thereof, said housing member having a substantially hollow interior accessible from said open end portion and adaptable for receiving a substantial portion of a filter member when positioned therewithin, a single opening extending through the dome shaped portion of said housing member and contained within the outer periphery of said dome shaped portion for allowing air to enter said housing member, and a plurality of circumferentially spaced shoulder members associated with the interior of said housing member;

a first end cap member adaptable for engaging one end portion of a filter member and being insertable within the interior of said housing member, said first end cap member being engageable with said plurality of shoulder members when inserted within said housing member;

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and

a second end cap member adaptable for engaging the opposite end portion of a filter member, said second end cap member being engageable with said housing member and having an opening associated therewith for allowing air to exit said housing member, said first and second end cap members and said housing member forming a peripheral space around a filter member when said first end cap member and a filter member are positioned within said housing member and said first end cap member engages said plurality of shoulder members and when said second end cap member is engaged with said housing member.

Claim 23 (Original): The filter housing assembly as defined in claim 22 wherein said single opening in the dome shaped portion of said housing member is located near the apex thereof.

Claim 24 (Original): The filter housing assembly as defined in claim 22 wherein a filter member includes a passageway extending therethrough, the opening associated with said second end cap member being positioned and located so as to lie in communication with the passageway extending through the filter member when said second end cap member is engaged with the opposite end portion of the filter member.

Claim 25 (Original): The filter housing assembly as defined in claim 23 wherein the single opening extending through the dome shaped portion of said housing member is substantially equal to the opening associated with said second end cap member.

Claim 26 (Original): The filter housing assembly as defined in claim 23 wherein the single opening extending through the dome shaped portion of said housing member is less than the opening associated with said second end cap member.

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Claim 27 (Original): The filter housing assembly as defined in claim 23 wherein the single opening extending through the dome shaped portion of said housing member is greater than the opening associated with said second end cap member.

Claim 28 (Original): The filter housing assembly as defined in claim 22 wherein the size of the single opening extending through the dome shaped portion of said housing member and the size of the opening associated with said second end cap member fall in the range from about 3/16 inch to about 1/4 inch diameter.

Claim 29 (Currently amended): A filter housing assembly for housing a filter member therewithin for use in an oxygen concentrator comprising:

a substantially frusto-conical shaped housing member having an open end portion associated with one end portion thereof and a dome shaped portion associated with the opposite end portion thereof, said housing member having a substantially hollow interior accessible from said open end portion and adaptable for receiving a substantial portion of a filter member when positioned therewithin, a plurality of openings extending through the dome shaped portion of said housing member and located within the outer periphery of said dome shaped portion for allowing air to enter said housing member, and a plurality of circumferentially spaced shoulder members associated with the ~~interior~~ inside periphery of said housing member;

a first end cap member adaptable for engaging one end portion of a filter member and being insertable within the interior of said housing member, said first end cap member being engageable with said plurality of shoulder members when inserted within said housing member;
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a second end cap member adaptable for engaging the opposite end portion of a filter member, said second end cap member being engageable with said housing member and having an opening associated therewith for allowing air to exit said housing member, said first and second end cap members and said housing member forming a peripheral space around a filter member when said first end cap member and a filter member are positioned within said housing member and said first end cap member engages said plurality of shoulder members and when said second end cap member is engaged with said housing member, said first end cap member and said plurality of shoulder members forming additional spaces by and between said first end cap member, said plurality of shoulder members and said housing member when said first end cap member is engaged with said plurality of shoulder members so as to allow air entering the dome shaped portion of said housing member to travel to the peripheral space formed around a filter member positioned within said housing member.

Claim 30 (Currently amended): A filter assembly for housing a filter member therewithin comprising:

a one-piece substantially frusto-conical shaped housing member having an open end portion and a substantially closed dome shaped portion adaptable for receiving a filter member therewithin, said housing member having a substantially hollow interior accessible from said open end portion, and at least one opening extending through the closed dome shaped portion of said housing member for allowing air to enter said housing member; said at least one opening being located so as not to extend beyond the outer periphery of said dome shaped portion;

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a filter member adaptable for being housed within the interior of said housing member;

a first end cap member insertable within the interior of said housing member, said first end cap member being attachable to one end portion of said filter member;

a second end cap member attachable to the opposite end portion of said filter member and to the open end portion of said housing member, said second end cap member having an opening associated therewith for allowing air to exit said housing member; and

a plurality of shoulder members associated with the ~~interior~~ inside periphery of said housing member, said shoulder members being positioned and located to facilitate centering of said filter member within said housing member when said filter member is positioned therewithin;

said filter member when engaged with said first and second end cap members being insertable into said housing member such that said first end cap member engages said plurality of shoulder members, said first and second end cap members and said housing member forming a peripheral space around said filter member, engagement of said first end cap member with said plurality of shoulder members forming additional spaces by and between said first end cap member, said plurality of shoulder members and said housing member for enabling air entering said at least one opening in the substantially closed dome shaped portion of said housing member to travel through said peripheral space: to said filter member.

Claim 31 (Currently amended): The filter assembly as defined in claim 30 wherein the substantially closed dome shaped portion of said housing member includes a plurality of

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openings extending therethrough, each of said plurality of openings being located so as not to extend beyond the outer periphery of said dome shaped portion.

Claim 32 (Original): The filter assembly as defined in claim 30 wherein said at least one opening extending through the substantially closed dome shaped portion of said housing member is positioned and located near the apex thereof.

Claim 33 (Currently amended): A method for assembling a filtration unit for use on a compressor assembly comprising the following steps:

- (a) selecting a filter member;
- (b) sealingly attaching one end portion of said filter element to a first end cap member;
- (c) sealingly attaching the opposite end portion of said filter member to a second end cap member, said second end cap member having an opening associated therewith;
- (d) inserting said filter member attached to said first and second end cap members within a one-piece filter housing member, said filter housing member being substantially frusto-conical in shape and having a substantially hollow interior adaptable for receiving a substantial portion of the filter member, said housing member having an open end portion for allowing access to the interior thereof and having a substantially closed dome shaped portion, at least one opening extending through said dome shaped portion for allowing air to enter said housing member, said at least one opening being located so as not to extend beyond the outer periphery of said dome shaped portion, said housing member further including a plurality of circumferentially spaced projections associated with the interior thereof;

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positioning said filter member attached to said first and second end cap members within said housing member such that said first end cap member engages said plurality of spaced shoulder members and said second end cap member engages said housing member; and
sealingly attaching said second end cap member to said housing member.

Claim 34 (Original): The method as defined in claim 33 wherein the one end portion of said filter member is attached to said first end cap member by applying a hot melt adhesive to at least a portion of said first end cap member, and wherein the one end portion of said filter member is thereafter engaged with the hot melt adhesive so as to create an air tight bond therebetween.

Claim 35 (Original): The method as defined in claim 33 wherein the opposite end portion of said filter member is attached to said second end cap member by applying a hot melt adhesive to at least a portion of said second end cap member, and wherein the opposite end portion of said filter member is thereafter engaged with the hot melt adhesive so as to create an air tight bond therebetween.

Claim 36 (Original): The method as defined in claim 33 wherein said second end cap member is attached to said housing member through the use of an ultrasonic weld so as to create an air tight bond therebetween.

Claim 37 (Original): The method as defined in claim 33 wherein said second end cap member includes a tubular portion, the opening associated with said second end cap member extending through said tubular portion, said tubular portion being engageable with a compressor assembly.